गिकियों को अभिज्ञात करने, विद्यमान संयंत्रों में रिट्रोफिटिंग नियंत्रण उपस्करों, कुल उपस्करों की सुपुर्दगी की दीर्घकालिक समय अनुसूची, धन संबंधी अड़चनों आदि की समस्याओं के कारण निर्धारित समय-सीमा के भीतर सारी कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकी।

Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1690. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the projected plans for expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is a fact that the V.S.P. is unable to generate any funds from its own earnings for expansion;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there was any basic defect in the economics of operation of this plant; and

(e) whether it is a ready technically obsolete ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been commissioned and dedicated to the Nation by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1-8-1992. The VSP Management is concentrating on the stabilisation of its production units so as to reach 100% capacity utilisation by 1996-97. There is no programme for expansion of the plant at present.

(d) No, Sir. The plant is presently incurring losses due to low capacity utilisation of the production units which are still in the process of stabilisation and high incidence of capital related charges viz. depreciation and interest.

(e) No, Sir. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is one of the most modern integrated steel-plants in India. Some of the modern'technolo-gies installed in the plant are ; Dry Quenching of Coke, Bell Less Top Charging and Cast House Slag Granulation in Blast Furnaces, LD converters for conversion of Hot Metal into steel, 100% Continuous Casting process for steel making and fully automatic sophisticated rolling mills.

Prospects of Sail n terms of Steel Industry

1691. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that SAIL has a vast manpower base and Training facilities;

(b) if so, whether SAIL can provide a strong human resource development base *to* the total steel and related industry in view of globalisation of Indian economy;

(c) whether it is a fact that the trained manpower would be key to with-stand global .competition-both in terms of quality and cost effectiveness; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (d) It is a fact that Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has' a vast manpower base comprising 22,297 executives and 2,07,376 non-executive in the steel plants and subsidiaries. This large reservoir of skilled manpower of SAIL has enabled the Company to effectively meet the challenges in the post liberalisation scenario wherein it has to gear itself for greater competition through better quality and cost effective products. All the integrated steel plants under SAIL have well established training centres for providing technical and managerial training, with modern facilities required for in-house training establishments.

Under the current liberalised business environment, SAIL is already diversifying its activities and providing consultancy services in a variety of areas, including human resource development to steel arid related industries.

Secondary Steel Sector

1692. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Secondary Steel Sector is reeling under spiralling scrap, power tariff, uneconomical furnace capacities and outdated technology;

(b) whether it is virtually on the verge of closure; and